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# A STATISTICAL SYSTEM FOR THE USE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

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(Report of Committee "J" of the Institute)

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HORATIO M. POLLOCK,<sup>1</sup> *Chairman*

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Your Committee on Statistics presents as its report for the year a plan for the preparation of statistical data in institutions for criminals and juvenile delinquents. The more difficult problem of collecting statistics of crime and criminals from police and court records is left for a subsequent study.

The plan submitted presupposes the employment of physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists in penal and correctional institutions, and that these experts will give admissions through physical and mental examinations. Such examinations should be supplemented by investigation of individual and family histories by social workers. The information thus gained would not only yield good statistics but be of the highest value in the institutional care and training of the inmates.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

At the outset of its work the committee recognized that the desired data must be properly classified before adequate statistics could be obtained. The lack of standard classifications of crimes and of criminals has been one of the primary obstacles in the way of good statistics in criminology. No general agreement in classification is found among writers in this field nor in the criminal laws of the several states. So far as the classification of crimes is concerned the committee felt that for the present it would be unwise to depart from the classification used by the federal Census Bureau although this is unsatisfactory in many respects. The criminal laws of the several states and of the federal government need complete rewriting, not

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<sup>1</sup>The personnel of the committee is as follows:

Horatio M. Pollock, N. Y. State Hospital Commission, Albany, chairman.

Edith Abbott, School of Civics and Philanthropy, Chicago.

Annie Hinrichsen, State Board of Public Welfare, Springfield, Ill.

Thomas D. Eliot, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

John Koren, International Prison Commission, Boston.

Louis N. Robinson, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.

only for the introduction of rational uniformity but also for the abandonment of archaic methods and the incorporation of modern ideas. General co-operation in the revision of such laws is needed to produce the best results. The committee believes a uniform classification of crimes is greatly to be desired and would recommend the use of such classification, when agreed upon, in this statistical system.

A different situation exists with respect to the classification of criminals and delinquents. The history and personality of criminals may be studied and they may be classified without conflict with an antiquated law or court sentence.

In attempting to classify criminals the committee asked itself this question: What characteristics of the criminal are of most importance from the standpoint of prison administration and the welfare of the prisoner? There could be but one answer. The mental status is the primary consideration. This fact has been recognized in numerous special studies made in prisons and correctional institutions, but prior to this year had not formed a part of any statistical system dealing with criminals or delinquents.

The work of the committee in formulating a mental classification has been made easy by the work recently done by national associations in related fields. In May, 1917, the American Medico-Psychological Association adopted a classification of mental diseases and a uniform statistical system for the state hospitals of the country. In June, 1920, the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded adopted a statistical plan for institutions for the feeble-minded which included a classification of mental deficiency. In September, 1917, the War Department adopted for the use of the examiners in the Division of Neurology and Psychiatry a classification of mental disorders which was very similar to the classifications mentioned above and also included psychopathic personalities.

With the assistance of the experience thus gained in this field the committee submits the following classification of the mental status of criminals and delinquents:

#### MENTAL CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

- I. No demonstrable abnormality.
- II. Mental deficiency:
  1. Imbecile.
  2. Moron.
  3. Borderline.

### III. Mental disease:

1. Traumatic psychoses.
2. Senile psychoses.
3. Psychoses with cerebral arteriosclerosis.
4. General paralysis.
5. Psychoses with cerebral syphilis.
6. Psychoses with Huntington's chorea.
7. Psychoses with brain tumor.
8. Psychoses with other brain or nervous diseases.
9. Alcoholic psychoses.
10. Psychoses due to drugs and other exogeneous toxins.
11. Psychoses with pellagra.
12. Psychoses with other somatic diseases.
13. Manic-depressive psychoses.
14. Involution melancholia.
15. Dementia praecox.
16. Paranoia or paranoid conditions.
17. Epileptic psychoses.
18. Psychoneuroses and neuroses.
19. Psychoses with psychopathic personality.
20. Psychoses with mental deficiency.
21. Undiagnosed psychoses.

### IV. Psychopathic personality:

1. Inadequate.
2. Emotionally unstable.
3. Egocentric.
4. Others (specify).

### DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The term "no demonstrable abnormality" is used in preference to the term "normal" because of the impossibility of making a diagnosis of normality of health except by exclusions. A person is assumed to be normal when we find no evidence of abnormality.

In the groups under mental deficiency the term "idiot" is omitted for the reason that idiots are not considered responsible for their acts and are not committed to penal or correctional institutions.

An "imbecile" is defined as a mentally defective person having a mental age between 36 months and 83 months or, if a child, an intelligence quotient between 25 and 49.

A "moron" is a mentally defective person having a mental age between 84 and 144 months or, if a child, an intelligence quotient between 50 and 74.

The term "borderline" is applied to adults having intelligence

above the 12-year level yet not quite up to the normal standard. The intelligence quotient of the borderline is between 75 and 89.

Mental age should be determined by the use of standard tests. As the Stanford revision of the Binet tests is more widely used than any other the committee would recommend its use in the examination of criminals and delinquents. This test may be supplemented by such other tests as are deemed necessary by the examiner. In determining the intelligence quotient for adults some standard practice must be adopted in order that comparisons may be possible. For this purpose the denominator recommended is the chronological age of 16 years.

The 21 groups of psychoses in the classification of the American Medico-Psychological Association are defined and explained in the statistical manual prepared for free distribution by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

Under "psychopathic personality" are included those cases in which there is found a definite, positive trend toward one of the various types of behavior difficulty. The principal characteristics presented by these individuals are marked irascibility, emotional instability, weakness of will and tendency to vagrancy, pathological lying and contentiousness.

The groups mentioned in the classification are well known but as there are psychopathic personalities that cannot be included under these terms the term "others (specify)" is made necessary.

The term "inadequate personality" includes those individuals who are repeatedly in difficulty with the environment as the result of a definite shortcoming or deficiency. This may be a generalized deficiency or a special disability, such as a weakness of will, a defective memory, defective judgment, or defective resistance to suggestion.

The "emotionally unstable" individual is one who is repeatedly in difficulty with the environment as the result of a positive emotional trend. This is ordinarily either hyperkinetic or hypokinetic in the usual sense or is characterized by rage, outbursts of temper or powerful emotional crimes of various sorts.

The "egocentric personality" includes those individuals who are repeatedly in difficulty with the environment because of disproportionate egoism; that is to say, their behavior is chiefly characterized by vanity, arrogance, selfishness, contentiousness, disregard for others, entire lack of sympathy, often brutality, and jealousy. They are keenly aware of any slight to themselves or any infraction of their

rights; they are obtuse to the importance of the more serious infractions of the rights of others.

#### BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

Scarcely less important are the behavior characteristics of those who are committed to penal and correctional institutions. These have a direct bearing on training in the institution and on the problem of the prevention of crime. The committee proposes the following classification to cover this field of inquiry:

1. Emotionally unstable behavior.
2. Profligate.
3. Vagrant.
4. Dishonest.
5. Eccentric.
6. Egocentric.
7. Sexually abnormal.
8. Others (specify).

"Emotionally unstable behavior" includes the more marked or serious emotional disturbances, violent losses of temper, marked hyperkinetic or hypokinetic reactions, hilarious, boisterous or depressed, discouraged behavior.

The term "profligate" denotes the usual behavior characteristic of the spendthrift, roisterer, rounder and gambler. Any one who squanders his property, for whatever reason, presents this behavior characteristic.

The term "vagrant" indicates the behavior characteristics of the various types of wanderers such as hobos, tramps, truants, run-away girls and deserters.

The term "dishonest" includes all frauds such as theft, cheating, lying, swindling and all other forms of deceit.

The term "eccentric" includes a number of behavior reactions, ordinarily not easily classifiable, which are not indications of mental disease or deficiency. The enthusiast, perverted idealist, unpractical inventor, religious bigot and fanatic; eccentric beggars, actors, musicians and artists are included under this term.

The term "egocentric" includes all evidences of marked selfishness, exaggerated interest in the ego to the exclusion of interest in others, vanity, arrogance, disregard or contempt for the rights of others, lack of generosity or altruism.

The term "sexually abnormal" includes all manifestations of abnormal sexual tendencies or acts, crimes against nature, homosexual acts and various sex perversions.

Under the term "others (specify)" provision is made for the designation of significant behavior characteristics not included in the terms above described. This term will also include cases whose behavior does not give evidence of any abnormality.

The same individual may exhibit several of the behavior characteristics, and when such is the case, all should be stated on the statistical card.

#### TYPE OF OFFENDER

Another classification of criminals and delinquents that is useful for administrative purposes is provided for under the caption "type of offender." This includes four groups namely:

1. First offender.
2. Accidental offender.
3. Occasional offender.
4. Habitual offender.

The classification is to be made from the history of the inmate rather than from explanatory statements made by him.

"First offender" denotes one whose history indicates that the offense for which he was committed was his first criminal act.

"Accidental offender" denotes one who has committed a crime without intending to do so. A "first offender" may also be an "accidental offender."

"Occasional offender" denotes one who has committed but few crimes and has not become an "habitual offender."

"Habitual offender" denotes one who has committed several crimes or who has entered upon a criminal career.

In submitting the above classifications the committee wishes to acknowledge its indebtedness to Dr. Herman M. Adler, criminologist of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Illinois, and to Dr. H. Douglas Singer, alienist of the same Department.

#### STATISTICAL DATA CARDS

After agreeing on the primary classification the next step in the work of the committee was the formulation of statistical data cards for the use of institutions in recording and reporting data concerning admissions, discharges, transfers and deaths. The purpose of these

cards is to supply in convenient form the facts needed in making annual or biennial reports and to provide for the accumulation of data that could be used in special studies covering a term of years.

Four cards are recommended, as follows:

1. *An admission card* for each person admitted on original commitment. Persons returned from parole or escape are not to be considered admissions unless previously discharged from books.

2. *A discharge card* for each inmate discharged from the books of the institution. Paroled inmates are not to be discharged from books so long as they are liable to be returned to the institution under the original commitment. Escapes should be discharged from the books after an absence of one year. If later returned to the institution an admission card should be made out for them.

3. *A death card* for each inmate who dies in the institution. Inmates who die away from the institution while on parole or escape should be *discharged* and reported on *discharge cards*.

4. *A transfer card* for each inmate transferred to another institution within the state.

In states where a central statistical bureau is connected with the office of the supervising board or department, a copy of each statistical card should be sent to such bureau, and after being studied should be systematically filed therein.

The following are the forms recommended:



ADMISSION—CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

.....  
(Name of Institution)

Name  
Ident. No. of  
Committed by  
court  
county or city

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION	MENTAL AGE		years	I. Q.			
BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION	TYPE OF OFFENDER	First	accidental	occasional	habitual		
USE OF ALCOHOL	Abstinent	temperate	intemperate	Yes	No	Kind of drug	
PHYSICAL DEFECTS				HEIGHT	ft.	in.	
PHYSICAL DISEASES				WEIGHT	lbs.		
EDUCATION—None	reads only	reads and writes	common school	grade	high school	years	
	collegiate	years	Age at completion of highest grade	years			
FAMILY HISTORY							
AGE ON ADMISSION	years	MARITAL CONDITION—Single	married	widowed	divorced	separated	No. OF CHILDREN
NATIVITY (State or country) of inmate		of father					YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN U. S.
CITIZENSHIP—of inmate—American	foreign	of father—American	foreign				RACE
OCCUPATION							RELIGION
EMPLOYED at time of commission of crime—Yes	No						
ENVIRONMENT { to 14 years	urban	rural					
after 14 years	urban	rural					
BORN OF MARRIED PARENTS—Yes	No	Parents—living together	separated				
				(Date)	father dead	(Date of death)	
mother dead							
ACTUAL RESIDENCE—County							
TIME IN STATE—Last residence							
CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED							
TERM OF COMMITMENT							
APPARENT MOTIVE FOR CRIME							
No. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS							
DATE OF ADMISSION							
FINGER PRINT							

DISCHARGE—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

.....  
(Name of Institution)

Name	Iden. No.	
MENTAL CLASSIFICATION		
MENTAL AGE ON DISCHARGE	years	L. Q.
CHRONOLOGICAL AGE ON DISCHARGE	years	DATE OF LAST ADMISSION
HEIGHT	ft. in.	WEIGHT
		lbs.
CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED	TERM OF COMMITMENT	
DURATION OF LAST INSTITUTION RESIDENCE (exclusive of parole)	years	months
DURATION OF LAST INSTITUTION RESIDENCE (exclusive of parole)	years	months
DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS	years	months
TOTAL DURATION OF PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LIFE (exclusive of paroles)	years	months
INSTRUCTION IN INSTITUTION (Kinds and time of each)		
RECORD IN INSTITUTION—Excellent	good	fair
TRADE OR OCCUPATION	COMPETENCY—Expert	
DATE OF LATEST PAROLE	19	No. OF VIOLATIONS OF PAROLE
DATE OF DISCHARGE	19	REASON FOR DISCHARGE
FINGER PRINT	INSTITUTION No.	

DEATH—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

.....  
(Name of Institution)

Name		Iden. No.	
MENTAL CLASSIFICATION			
AGE AT DEATH	years	DATE OF LAST ADMISSION	19
CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED		TERM OF COMMITMENT	
DURATION OF LAST INSTITUTION RESIDENCE		years	months      days
DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS			
TOTAL DURATION OF PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LIFE (exclusive of parole)			
CAUSE OF DEATH (Follow international list of causes and <u>underline</u> principal cause)			
AUTOPSY	No      Yes	CORONER'S CASE	No      Yes
CORONER'S VERDICT			
ACTUAL RESIDENCE WHEN COMMITTED—County		P. O. ADDRESS	
DATE OF DEATH		19	
FINGER PRINT		INSTITUTION No.	

## TRANSFER—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

From .....  
 To .....  
 Date .....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Iden. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Committed by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ court  
 county or city

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION		MENTAL AGE		years		I. Q.	
BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION		TYPE OF OFFENDER		First	accidental	occasional	habitual
USE OF ALCOHOL. Abstinent		temperate	intemperate	DRUG ABUSCT	Yes	No	Kind of drug
PHYSICAL DEFECTS		reads only		reads and writes	common school	grade	HEIGHT ft. in.
EDUCATION—None		collegiate	years	Age at completion of highest grade	high school	years	WEIGHT lbs.
FAMILY HISTORY		years		MARITAL CONDITION—Single married widowed divorced		No. OF CHILDREN	
AGE ON ADMISSION		years	of inmate	of father	of mother	YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN U. S.	
NATIVITY (State or country)		of inmate	foreign	of father—American	foreign	RACE	
CITIZENSHIP—of inmate—American		foreign	RELIGION	ECONOMIC CONDITION—Dependent		marginal	
OCCUPATION		No		rural		comfortable	
EMPLOYED at time of commission of crime—Yes		urban	urban	Parents living together		separated	
ENVIRONMENT { to 14 years		urban	urban	mother dead		(Date of death)	
BORN OF MARRIED PARENTS—Yes		No	mother dead	(Date of death)			
ACTUAL RESIDENCE—County		P. O. ADDRESS		Total time		DATE OF CRIME	
TIME IN STATE—Last residence		No. OF PREVIOUS ARRESTS		No. OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS			
CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED		DATE OF COMMITMENT		DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS COMMITMENT			
TERM OF COMMITMENT		APPARENT MOTIVE FOR CRIME		DATE OF LAST ADMISSION (other than by transfer)			
NO. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS		REASON FOR TRANSFER		FINGER PRINT		INSTITUTION NO.	

It is recommended that cards of a standard size (5" x 8") be used; that admission cards be *white*, discharge cards *salmon color*, death cards *blue* and transfer cards *tan color*; and that cards for males be printed with *black* ink and those for females be printed with *red*.

To secure uniformity in interpreting and reporting data the various captions on the cards must be clearly explained and defined, and all classifications used should be made available to those who fill out the cards. It becomes necessary therefore to provide a statistical manual or handbook which will contain the various classifications and answer the principal questions that may arise in relation to the statistical work. Such a manual is already in use in the State of Illinois and can be made available for use in other states.

#### STATISTICAL TABLES RECOMMENDED

The cards recommended for use in institutions make possible a wide variety of statistical tables, as any three items on the cards may be correlated in tabular form. Certain tables, however, are of more importance and more interest than others and should appear in every annual or biennial report issued by the institution or department. Other tables may be prepared to throw light on special topics.

The tables recommended for general use in reports are:

1. Movement of inmates classified with reference to sex.
2. Behavior characteristics of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
3. Types of offenders among admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
4. Use of alcohol and drugs by admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
5. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
6. Previous arrests, convictions and commitments of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
7. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and behavior characteristics.
8. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex, economic condition and environment.
9. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and term of commitment.
10. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and age.

11. Nativity of admissions and of parents of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.

12. Citizenship of admissions classified with reference to sex.

13. Discharges classified with reference to sex, age and mental status.

14. Behavior characteristics of discharges classified with reference to sex and record in institution.

15. Period of last institution residence of discharges classified with reference to sex and term of sentence.

16. Deaths classified according to sex, age, and mental status.

17. Deaths classified with reference to sex, crimes committed and duration of institution life.

18. Causes of death classified with reference to sex and age.

If the statistical plan outlined in this report meets with favor, the committee would respectfully recommend that steps be taken to introduce it into the penal and correctional institutions of the several states. As there is a widespread demand for better criminal statistics, the committee believes that any plan sanctioned by this Institute would receive a cordial welcome.